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MY BIRTHDAY.

J. G. WHITTIER.

Beneath the moonlight and the snow
Lies dead my latest year;
The winter winds are wailing low
Its dirges in my ear.

I grieve not with the moaning wind
As if a loss befell;
Before me, even as behind,
God is, and all is well!

His light shines on me from above.
His low voice speaks within,—
The patience of immortal love
Outwearying mortal sin.

Not mindless of the growing years
Of care and loss and pain,
My eyes are wet with thankful tears
For blessings which remain.

If dim the gold of life has grown,
I will not count it dross,
Nor turn from treasures still my own
To sigh for lack and loss.

The years no charm from Nature take;
As sweet her voices call,
As beautiful her mornings break,
As fair her evenings fall.

Love watches o'er my quiet ways,
Kind voices speak my name,
And lips that find it hard to praise
Are slow, at least, to blame.

How softly ebb the tides of will!
How fields, once lost or won,
Now lie behind me green and still
Beneath a level sun!

How hushed the hiss of party hate,
The clamor of the throng!
How old, harsh voices of debate
Flow into rhythmic song!

Methinks the spirit's temper grows
Too soft in this still air;
Somewhat the restless heart foregoes
Of needed watch and prayer.

The bark by tempest vainly tossed
May founder in the calm,
And he who braved the polar frost
Faint by the isles of balm.

Better than self-indulgent years
The outflung heart of youth,
Than pleasant songs in idle years
The tumult of the truth.

Rest for the weary hands is good,
And love for hearts that pine,
But let the manly habitude
Of upright souls be mine.

The Duke of Argyle says in a recent review article: "My very idea of the purest Christian benevolence is inseparably associated with the stately form and majestic expression of Mrs. Fry, who was, perhaps, the noblest embodiment in our time of the divine virtue of compassion."

WHITTIER'S LAST POEM.

The New York *Ledger* obtained from John G. Whittier what may be the last poem he shall ever write, as he himself says. It is entitled "The Captain's Well," and is one of the strongest, most beautiful, and most finished productions that ever came from his pen. The venerable poet did not fix any price upon this poem, but left the remuneration to Messrs. Robert Bonner's Sons, and they sent him a check for a thousand dollars. Such unusual liberality touched him deeply; especially because (as he characteristically wrote) it enabled him to give more than he had hoped to be able to bestow upon certain charitable enterprises that were near to his heart. Notwithstanding the fact that John G. Whittier is now eighty-two years old yet he is about the livest man of his generation. He is vigorous both in body and mind, and as the above mentioned poem evidences can do as good work as ever. It is seldom that so modest, peaceful and useful a life as John G. Whittier's is lived upon this earth, and millions of the aged poet's admirers and friends are gratified to know that there is good promise that his life may be yet spared for many years.—*Statesman*.

MEMORIAL OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

To the Conference of Delegates of the Independent States of America at Washington:

We address you in the name of Him whose advent to earth was heralded by the anthem, "Peace on Earth, and Good Will to Men." We accept that He who rules in the Heavens and guides the hearts and thoughts of men, has led you as statesmen and delegates of the Independent States of America to meet in council, in Washington, to adjust international interests on a basis of fraternity, equality, justice and reciprocity. Prophets of old have told us of a period when nations shall learn war no more. May you be instruments in the Divine hands to begin the fulfilment of this prophecy.

It will be a joyous day when the commerce of the nations can cross ocean and sea, and none shall make afraid, when mutual confidence and fraternal reciprocity shall turn the vast expenditures for armaments to the aid of peaceful, productive industry, to feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and making happy homes.

All the independent American nations can trace their ancestry to the various nations of Europe, Asia and Africa. We are bound to them by one blood. War claims for its service the best talent, bone and sinew of earth. The pride of ten thousand families are, year by year, laid on its altar to keep the peace of Christian nations. It exhausts the national treasury, cripples the commerce of the world, and makes homes of sorrowing widows and orphans. It grinds the poor, is the fruit of bitter hatred, and leaves in its path a spirit of unsatisfied revenge.

Is it not time for Christian statesmen to say it is enough? A pledge of perpetual friendship and good will may end this destructive waste; and national hate, and the horrors of the battlefield, made red by the blood of kindred Christian nations.

The peoples of Europe, who are groaning under the vast military systems which the prevailing faithlessness in the overruling providence of God has imposed upon them, have uttered a cry, and their cry has gone up to the Lord

of Sabbaoth. The limits of endurance of this gigantic evil are being rapidly reached, and statesmen are alarmed at the outlook of their policy.

Nations, as well as individuals, need to be taught to put their trust in God for preservation. This will beget mutual confidence, coupled with a desire to act justly to one another. The adoption of arbitration for the settlement of disputes will then be readily accepted and meet every emergency, as a substitute for war. It has already proved a satisfactory means of settling many international disputes.

Setting aside the religious principles involved in the question, the promotion of arbitration in lieu of war is advocated and increasingly accepted on the grounds of political economy. Near sixty cases of international arbitration have already occurred, nearly all of which are on the records of the present century, in which twenty-two independent nations have been parties. Persia, Turkey, China and Japan have not been afraid to follow in the lead of the professed Christian nations of Europe, and of North and South America. With this extensive experience of the justice, economy and mercy of such measures for settling international disputes, can a more fit time than the present be found to look to the perpetual peace of all nations, and to invoke the Divine blessing upon our efforts to reach an end so righteous?

The greatest Generals, Sovereigns and Statesmen, on both continents, have recommended it. Presidents Washington, J. Q. Adams, Grant, Hayes, Garfield and Arthur have pressed its claims upon Congress for approval. The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States have, more than once, recommended it. So have the English Parliament, the Congress of Brussels, the French National Assembly and Chamber of Deputies, the Belgian Chamber of Deputies, the Swedish Diet, the States General of Netherlands and the Canadian Parliament.

It is our prayer that the Lord may so bless you with wisdom that your deliberations and conclusions may open a door of hope to Europe, Asia and Africa, by which they may escape from the crushing burdens of their standing armies, by delegating representative men to meet in international council, and perfect a peace that shall encircle the earth. The Lord has told us, by His Holy Penman, that He has appointed a day when nation shall not hurt nor destroy; "For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea;" and that CHRIST'S KINGDOM, in the latter day, would become so universal that He would judge among the nations, and rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

This glorious day will be ushered in when Christian rulers and Christian statesmen and Christian philanthropists shall recognize the universal brotherhood of man and the universal Fatherhood of God.

Signed by direction of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Plainfield, Indiana, the 17th of 9th month, 1889. SIMON HADLEY, *Clerk*.

Signed by direction of Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Richmond, Indiana, Ninth Month 30th, 1889.

ALLEN TERRELL, } *Clerks*.
NAOMI W. HARRISON, }

PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE.

No. 1 SOMERSET ST.,
BOSTON, MASS., March 2, 1890.

To HON. T. JEFFERSON COOLIDGE and others, members of the International Conference of American Nations:

Gentlemen—At a recent meeting of The American Peace Society, the undersigned were appointed a committee to confer with the above named conference and the second time to call their attention to the need of some definite recommendation by that conference of a system of American International Arbitration, such as was contemplated in Article VII of the official invitation of the United States Government under which the conference convened.

In the absence of information as to what steps have been or may be taken in accordance with that article, we beg leave to assure you that a deep and widespread feeling of disappointment and dissatisfaction is sure to ensue among the people of the United States of America if the conference should terminate without a serious and earnest attempt to avert future wars between the American nations by the recommendation of a general system of arbitral treaties and courts.

In co-operation with our own auxiliaries and other Peace and Arbitration Societies throughout this country we received and forwarded to the United States Congress the names of many thousand petitioners for the conference now in session, on the sole ground that it would not only promote international concord by commercial and friendly intercourse, but do much to secure perpetual peace on this continent by presenting some practical scheme of Arbitration as a preventive and substitute for war in the settlement of international disputes.

On the other hand no one act seems to us of more vital importance and we feel assured that none would so commend the International Conference to the confidence and gratitude of the people of the United States of America as a serious and earnest attempt to perpetually avert war between American nations.

We will, dear sir, esteem very highly your courtesy if you will lay this communication before the conference, and especially the committee having the matter referred to in charge.

EDWARD S. TOBEY, }
A. A. MINER, } *Committee*.
R. B. HOWARD, }

INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN CONFERENCE,
WASHINGTON, March 12, 1890.

EDWARD S. TOBEY, Esq., Chairman:

Dear Sir—Your esteemed favor of the 2d has been read by me with much pleasure, and I have given it to General Henderson my co-delegate and Chairman of the Committee on Arbitration. It will receive all the attention so very important a subject demands. I trust that all the States of the Americas may join in some plan to substitute for war an attempt at arbitration.

With much respect I am very truly yours,
T. JEFFERSON COOLIDGE.

The Russian government has ordered the planned great railway line across Siberia to be begun in May next. When the line is completed it is estimated that the tour of the world in fifty days will be feasible.